the merchants and trading classes. As to the general amendment of rules, that will have to wait until such time as the revision of rules comes up for consideration. Meanwhile if I am correct in assuming that you have printed your statement, if you will kindly give me a copy of it, I shall have it examined.

13. A Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Bhutapandy.

MR. ARUMUKHA PERUMAL PILLAI MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that till recently there were no less than three Magistrates' courts in the Tovala taluk, one at Azhagiapandiapuram, one at Bhutapandy, and the third at Aramboly. But all these courts were abolished one after another and that in spite of protests from the people. It was more or less an admitted fact that there would be more criminal cases in rural parts than in towns and the people of Tovala with its vast rural areas were suffering much inconvenience for want of any criminal courts. The same was the case in regard to Munsiffs' courts. The people of Tovala had to go to distant Nagercoil for the smallest civil suits. It had to be remembered in this connection that unlike in British India there were no Village Munsiffs in Travancore who could deal with small disputes between villagers. The population of the Tovala taluk numbered nearly 40,000 and the number of civil cases arising in the taluk was by no means inconsiderable. In fact about a fourth of the total number of suits filed in the District Munsiff's court, Nagercoil, during the years 1099 to 1102 came from the Tovala taluk. In view of these circumstances the member suggested that a Munsiff-Magistrate's court might be established at Bhutapandy, or in the alternative, the old Magistrate's court might be restored. In case both these measures were impracticable, Village Panchayat courts might be established in the various villages of the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Arumukhaperumal Pillai Mathevan Pillai, you make a statement in your preliminary essay that it is a recognised fact that there is more crime in rural places than in towns. That is a very interesting proposition; and some day when you have a little time you will perhaps give me full information as to by whom that fact came to be recognised and how it is supported in respect of your taluk. I am merely seeking information.

In regard to more courts and nearer courts it seems to me that the people of the Tovala taluk do not believe in seeking justice and believe in justice seeking them at their very doors. I suppose you would like to have a court at every street corner. If I am not mistaken there are many buses running from Tovala to Nagercoil. However, since you gave notice of your intention to represent this matter, it has been referred to the High Court who, in turn, have called for statistics; and they will come to a definite conclusion and make their recommendation to Government.

You lament the fact that there are no Village Munsiffs in Travancore. Let me explain that for a greater part of Travancore, there are no villages; and consequently I do not see how Village Munsiffs can come into being. But I believe you have within easy reach of you Village Panchayat courts which are much the same thing.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1·57 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

14. Judicial Institutions in the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. R. S. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) in dealing with the judicial institutions in the Kalkulam taluk dwelt upon the urgent necessity for transferring one of the Munsiffs' courts at Padmanabhapuram to Eraniel. Eraniel was one of the busiest and one of the most populous centres in south Travancore and a substantial percentage of the cases in the courts at Padmanabhapuram came from Eraniel. But Padmanabhapuram was eight miles away, and the people of Eraniel had to go all the way to Padmanabhapuram to attend the courts there. Moreover one of the Munsiffs' courts at Padmanabhapuram was now housed in a rented building, whereas at Eraniel there were Sirkar buildings in which the court could be accommodated. If a Munsiffs' court was established at Eraniel, it would also give considerable relief to the present pressure of work in the courts at Padmanabhapuram. In case one of the courts could not be transferred from Padmanabhapuram to Eraniel, the member suggested that the jurisdiction of the courts might

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly